

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03178 200221Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 FEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /124 W
-----200226Z 018201 /63/17

O R 190858Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3353
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3178

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y(OMISSION PARA 3)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

REF (A) SEOUL 3022 (NOTAL); (B) TOKYO 5585 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: TWO SEA PROBLEMS DOWN; THE BIG ONE STILL TO GO.

END SUMMARY.

1. GAIMUSHO NORTHEAST ASIAN DIVISION I CHIEF ENDO RETURNED
TO SEOUL APRIL 16-17 TO EXPLAIN TO MOFA OFFICIALS JAPANESE
PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.
ACCORDING TO JAPANESE POLCOUNS MABUCHI, ENDO EXPLAINED
THAT 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03178 200221Z

DELINEATED WITHIN SEA OF JAPAN (WHICH KOREANS REFER TO AS
EAST SEA), THUS FINESSING, INTER ALIA, QUESTION OF WHO
OWNS TOKTO (TAKESHIMA). MABUCHI SAID KOREANS WERE
APPARENTLY PLEASED WITH ENDO'S EXPLANATION AND ADDED THAT
UNLESS ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT RATIFICATION
FAILS TO PASS IN COMMITTEE OR FULL LOWER HOUSE VOTES
APRIL 22 AND 28 RESPECTIVELY, ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS SHOULD

BE ON REASONABLY SMOOTH COURSE. CONTINENTAL SHELF PASSAGE
WAS CRITICAL IN MABUCHI'S VIEW, SINCE IT HAD BECOME MATTER
OF PRESTIGE TO KOREANS. IF IT FAILED HE ANTICPATED AN
JAPANESE "EXPLOSION" IN KOREA.

2. MOFA TREATIES DIVISION CHIEF BAE BYONG SUNG, WHO MET
WITH ENDO APRIL 17, TOLD EMBOFF ENDO EXPLAINED BACKGROUND
OF JAPANESE DECISION TO ADVANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF 200 MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE TO APRIL 22 BECAUSE OF NEED FOR COUNTERACTION
AGAINST SOVIET DECLARATION OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND
SUBSEQUENT BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS. ENDO
SAID GOJ HAD DETERMINED THAT ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD NOT APPLY
TO NATIONS WITH WHICH JAPAN HAD FISHING AGREEMENTS,
THUS, ACCORDING TO BAE, PROVIDING RATIONALE FOR
APPLYING LIMIT TO USSR BUT NOT TO ROK. BAE SAID ENDO'S
VISIT MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION AS GESTURE OF SINCERITY,
BUT ROKG POSITION ON JAPAN'S 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD
PROBABLY NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL THE CABINET HAD A CHANCE TO
MEET AND CONSIDER ZONE'S IMPACT ON ROKG INTERESTS.

3. PRACTICAL JAPANESE SOLUTION, WHICH PROVIDES THAT
200 MILE LINE WOULD MERELY FADE AWAY AS IT CROSSES
INTO SEA OF JAPAN, APPEARS TO HAVE SOLVED OR AT LEAST
MITIGATED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN AN AGGRAVATING PROBLEM FOR
RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA. NOW FOR THE DIET
VOTE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

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